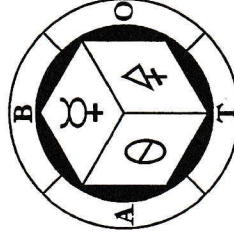


TAROT INTERPRETATION

LESSON 16



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B.O.T.A.**

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TAROT INTERPRETATION

Lesson Sixteen

YOUR COSMIC LIFE

THE TABLEAU for this week is:

6	7	8
9	10	11
12	13	14

Arranged as a magic square, adding to 30 in every direction it becomes:

9	14	7
8	10	12
13	6	11

The constant summation of this magic square, being 30, indicates that the Tarot Keys particularly relating to this group are 0 and 3, with 0 as the source of activity and 3 as the agency of its expression. One of the general meanings of this group, shown by every row of three Keys when they are arranged in magic order, is that the Unmanifested Spirit (0) is the real power finding expression through the generation of mental imagery in the field of subconsciousness.

Ageless Wisdom avoids a mistake of some modern systems of psychology which suppose subconsciousness has a power of its own which is merely an echo of earlier stages of evolution.

What psychoanalysts term the libido is really the elan vital of undifferentiated Spirit. It is the pure Life-Breath, the sky-power pictured by the Fool. As you receive it, it comes into your field of awareness through subconscious channels. Yet it is not a power of subconsciousness. You make contact with it **through** subconsciousness. Here applies the Hermetic axiom:

“That which is above is as that which is below, and that which is below is as that which is above, for the performance of the miracles of the One Thing.”

30 reduces to 3 which is the number of the Empress. Key 3 is a symbol of the main idea in the doctrine of this lesson. This idea is closely connected with the meanings of the letter Daleth (ד), corresponding to the Empress. Daleth means “door,” and its significance as applied to your work is this:

The activities of subconsciousness in the generation of mental images constitute the portal through which you pass from your present states of personal experience into those you are to realize in the future.

You have entered today's set of experiences through this door. Through it you will pass into the conditions of tomorrow. What you image today will become a pattern for the manifestations of days to come.

That this is true is not by any means patent to the greater number of human beings. Many reject it. They say: “I certainly did not imagine anything like the experiences I am having now. How, then, can you ask me to believe that what I imagine now will make any difference in my actual life tomorrow?”

This would be sound criticism were all mental imagery produced consciously. Actually, relatively few of your images are consciously shaped unless you are exceptionally skillful in directing the process. Your subconsciousness generates thousands of images every day. Each has a measure of effect on your relations with others and on your circumstances. Often they do not rise to the conscious level at all, but they make a difference just the same.

Subconsciousness is the dream-maker. It spins the web of imagery day and night. While awake we seldom notice this dream-process. Our attention is captured by the more vivid impressions of sense-experience. Nevertheless, subconsciousness goes right on and since many of these images affect other persons, both directly and telepathically, they condition the way others react to us and how they oppose or aid us in our undertakings.

You can direct this subconscious activity so that it will work to your advantage. You manage it from the self-conscious level. You do this now. The power is already yours. Possibly you have often worked the controls in reverse.

Remember, your subconscious dream-process is an automatic response to, and elaboration of, your conscious mental attitudes. When you let yourself get into the habit of thinking this is a pretty terrible world and that your hopes of realizing your heart's desire are “nothing but dreams,” you plant a seed-thought your subconsciousness will elaborate into specific imagery. Don't plan for failure that way!

These images may never rise into your field of conscious awareness. Yet they are being developed and some of them are amazingly strong.

Your bad dreams sometimes give you terrifying glimpses of the kind of product turned out by your subconscious image-factory. Learn how to direct your mental powers and you will not be bothered by bad dreams. The seed-thought you plant will not be the kind that grow into nightmare shape.

Ageless Wisdom says the image-making activities of your personal subconsciousness are the same in kind, though less potent in degree, as those whereby the physical forms of the world were brought forth by the Universal Mind. Imagination is thus actually the door to external experience. To trace the various elements of your present situation to their subconscious roots is difficult, even impossible. Yet you will do well to remember the principle.

Hebrew Wisdom gives another hint to the same effect. It says Daleth, the door, is also a symbol for the womb. Daleth represents the matrix in which conditions are shaped. This idea is brought out by many details of the Tarot picture of the Empress.

There should be nothing to disturb you in considering the close connection between your subconscious imagery and your conscious experience. You are not determined, as some have taught, by subconscious states over which you have no control. You do control them. You always control them even when you set into operation the production of sequences of images whose externalization is decidedly unfavorable to you and your projects. The trouble is, when trouble comes, that you have been misusing your control. Learn to use it aright and trouble comes to an end.

The principle of control is very simple. Subconsciousness accepts whatever we accept at the conscious level of our thought. Subconsciousness cannot criticize or repudiate our conscious notions. It takes for gospel everything that we believe, and it elaborates whatever we give it to the last possible deduction from the premises we establish by our conscious mental attitudes.

Because it does elaborate your conscious thoughts, you often experience conditions you seem not to have imagined at all. This is where you have to guard against making misinterpretations of experience at the conscious level. You must be on watch also against falling into easy agreement with some other person's ill-considered opinion. Learn to determine for yourself what you accept.

This is particularly important in these days when so many influences play upon us from the printed page, from motion pictures, and from the radio and television. All these media are employed by propagandists in order to plant suggestions in the race-mind. Deliberate misuse of suggestion in order to further the purposes of the few at the expense of the many is the modern adaptation of black magic. We see its evil results on every hand.

Less obvious but analogous and equally evil is the deliberate use by propagandists of the non-sequence; "Mohammedans do not drink alcohol and neither do Kansas Prohibitionists. Therefore Kansas Prohibitionists are Mohammedans."

Ridiculous, isn't it? But how about this one? "The white races are leaders in science and technology and America has the highest standard of all life of any place in the world. Therefore Americans are the most civilized people on earth."

Many people might swallow this statement at one gulp, but philosophers and metaphysicians would see the non-sequence between material wealth and spiritual attainment at once.

The multiplication of honest errors by print and by radio is almost as dangerous as malicious propaganda. In these days we need to be prepared to make positive counter-suggestions to a great number of negative statements we hear and read almost every waking hour of our lives.

Our counter-suggestions should be developments of a logical conception of the sort of world we actually live in. Key 10, the central picture in our tableau, and central also in the corresponding magic square, is important in this connection. It sums up symbolically the main aspects of a seed-thought which is sure to bear fruit in beneficent mental imagery. The person who has thought out and consciously accepted the idea represented by Key 10 will, by repeated meditation on that idea, set going a subconscious creative process which will eventually be the means of his liberation.

You have had some introduction to this idea in the lessons of TAROT FUNDAMENTALS and its various aspects have been touched upon in preceding lessons of this series. The emphasis this week will fall on this great seed-idea which may be put into words as follows:

In the smallest details of personal experience and action, the forces at work are not merely personal: they are phases also of a cosmic process of cyclic activity which moves inevitably toward the manifestation of a beautiful result.

Read the above paragraph several times. Be sure you grasp its import. Just now you may not feel you can give the statement your unqualified assent. You are not asked to do so. But it is important for you to be sure you have comprehended the import of the words. Full demonstration of their truth will come later.

As practice perfects you in demonstration and in keeping distinct the activities of your conscious and subconscious minds, as shown in Key 6, you will begin to notice that everything you think and say and do is connected with the movement of cycles of energy extending far beyond your present field of being. If you have some knowledge of astrology, you will observe a regular ebb and flow of mental activity corresponding exactly to the transits of the moon and planets through your horoscope. If you develop the proper degree of

inner sensitivity, you will become increasingly aware of definite guidance and of communication with the overshadowing presence of the angel of Key 14.

As you come more and more to interpret your personal activities as being expressions of the One Will which directs the universe, you will see also that in a sense you are always at the spiritual center of the whole system of cosmic cycles. You will begin to understand that your personal existence is a continual dissolution of outworn forms to make room for the unfoldment of new and better ones. (Keys 7, 10, 13)

At first it may not be easy to maintain the mental attitude we have described, but persist in it. Remind yourself repeatedly of the real facts no matter what appearances may be. In time you will transfer the idea to subconsciousness which will begin to act upon it. Then there will begin to grow in you a feeling that the most vital part of you remains unmoved through all the transformations of external circumstances, as unmoved as the sphinx at the top of the Wheel of Fortune. More and more you will feel that all details of your personal life are adequately supported by the cosmic process. (Keys 8, 10, 12)

The word "Self" will change in meaning as you grow in understanding. It will come to represent to you the One Identity which finds expression through countless personalities.

This Self is the true spiritual center of the universe and at the same time the central reality of your life. Your perception that It is constantly adjusting and balancing the various forces at work within and around you will be reinforced by definite proofs. (Keys 9, 10, 11)

These changes begin at the conscious level with acts of discrimination. They consist of repeated reminders that the personality is a vehicle for a cosmic energy which is spiritual. Eventually these repetitions of correct ideas will establish a new type of response at the subconscious level. Ultimately these new responses will bring all the subhuman forces of subconsciousness into harmony with the conscious thought. (Keys 6, 7, 8)

It is almost wholly a question of willing surrender of one's whole personal existence to the direction of the Life-power. This surrender is expressed in utter willingness to let go everything which is no longer of advantage to the progress of the Great Work in one's life. It is the acceptance of guidance from above, based on reasoned conviction that such guidance is always available. (Keys 12, 13, 14)

MEDITATIONS

FIRST DAY: Keys 6, 10, 14. The two modes of my consciousness work together in perfect harmony. My life is a universal phenomenon expressed in personal terms. It is directed by the same overshadowing Intelligence that guides the worlds through space. Poise and supply and guidance are mine this day.

SECOND DAY: Keys 7, 10, 13. I am an embodiment of the Creative Word. Through me circulate the currents of the Limitless Light. They dissolve in me everything that has outworn its usefulness. The Word is in my heart, its vibration is the support of all that surrounds me, and it transforms everything into its own beautiful image.

THIRD DAY: Keys 8, 10, 12. Even now my subconsciousness is ordering all forces for my good. I am living at the spiritual center of the universe. I depend on it wholly for power and supply. The cycles of necessity work always for my good.

FOURTH DAY: Keys 9, 10, 11. That which I really am has already attained all that I hope to be. The whole sweep of the cosmic cycles moves on inevitably to the external manifestation of that attainment. Everything works through me to balance all the forces of manifestation.

FIFTH DAY: Keys 6, 7, 8. Consciousness and subconsciousness work in me to manifest the Will of the One Self. My personality is a consecrated vehicle for the Life-power's victorious progress. All forces below the level of my conscious awareness are directed toward the perfect realization of the Great Work. Ever responsive to the One Life, I share its victorious mastery.

SIXTH DAY: Keys 12, 13, 14. I depend utterly on the Perfect Law. I let go all that binds me to the past. I set my feet firmly on the path which leads to the heights of Self-realization. I am utterly free, for I do nothing of myself.